

Abstract 169

TITLE: Sexual : Risk Behaviors of Addicted, HIV+ Individuals in the Context of Recovery

AUTHORS: Reese, M.¹, & Daughtry, M. ² (The University of Georgia ¹ Positive Impact, Inc.) ²

ISSUE: The HIV prevention literature has documented the need for HIV prevention activities that target individuals already living with HIV, particularly those that abuse alcohol and other substances. This literature has also documented that as 40% of individuals living with HIV may continue to participate in behaviors likely to result in either transmission of the virus to another person or re-infection. This study involves the analysis of data from addicted, HIV+ individuals who enrolled in an HIV prevention intervention in conjunction with a formal recovery program. Data were analyzed in order to better understand the factors associated with sexual risk behaviors among this population.

METHODS: Detailed behavioral data were collected from 60 HIV+ individuals who enrolled in an intensive five-week group psychotherapy program over the course of twelve months. The intervention focused on sexual risk reduction in conjunction with participants' enrollment in a formal recovery program. Data were collected as part of preintervention measures associated with this intervention.

RESULTS: Contrary to expectations found in the literature, 74% (N=44) reported less than three occurrences of anal or vaginal intercourse within the 90 days preceding the survey and over 80% (N=49) of these participants reported using condoms consistently for the limited number of oral, anal, and vaginal sexual activities that occurred during this time period. Although 50% (N=30) of participants scored highly on a measure of sexual compulsivity, a surprising finding was that participants' level of sexual compulsivity was inversely associated to the participants' number of oral, anal, and vaginal sexual activities ($r^2=.72, p<.05$) within the previous 90 days and positively associated with the level of HIV transmission knowledge ($r^2=.68, p<.01$).

CONCLUSIONS: These data indicate that risk reduction and HIV prevention interventions with those population may be effective given that, within the context of recovery, these individuals were maintaining a low level of risky sexual behaviors and maintaining a high level of condom use despite a high level of compulsivity. Interventions with this population should focus on stabilizing program participants within the maintenance stage and building skills for maintaining low risk behaviors once the participant leaves the formal recovery setting.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Michael Reece, MPH

Address: 1101 Juniper Street #826
Atlanta, GA 30309

Telephone: (404) 815-8071

Fax: (404) 815-8072

E-mail: mreece@coe.uga.edu